WR-C

25 NOV. 1966
3:17 PES
425

A38(NBJT)1WX
(520) AMS BUDGET
NIGHT LEAD HOOVER-ASSASSINATION
BY STEPHEN M. AUG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 25 (AP)-FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER RAPPED CRITICS OF THE WARREN COMMISSION REPORT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY TODAY, SAYING THEY "IGNORED CERTAIN FACTS, MISINTERPRETED OTHERS AND EXPRESSED PURE SPECULATION AS TRUTH."

IN A STATEMENT, HOOVER SAID ALSO:

--"NOT ONE SHRED OF EVIDENCE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO LINK ANY OTHER PERSON IN A CONSPIRACY WITH (LEE HARVEY) OSWALD TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY."

--"WHILE THERE IS A DIFFERENCE IN THE INFORMATION REPORTED BY THE FBI AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE AUTOPSY REPORT CONCERNING THE WOUNDS, THERE IS NO CONFLICT."

--THE FBI NEVER ALTERED THE FILM OF THE ASSASSINATION TAKEN BY ABRAHAM ZAPRUDER, A BYSTANDER.

HOOVER MADE THE COMMENTS IN REPLY TO A LETTER FROM A REPORTER FOR A LOCAL NEWSPAPER, THE EVENING STAR, AND MADE AVAILABLE TO OTHER NEWS MEDIA.

HOOVER DEVOTED MOST OF THE STATEMENT TO EXPLAINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FBI REPORTS OF THE KENNEDY AUTOPSY AND THE OFFICIAL REPORT.

"THE FBI REPORTS RECORD ORAL STATEMENTS MADE BY AUTOPSY PHYSICIANS WHILE THE EXAMINATION WAS BEING CONDUCTED AND BEFORE ALL THE FACTS WERE KNOWN. THE AUTOPSY REPORT RECORDS THE FINAL FINDINGS OF THE EXAMINATION," HOOVER SAID.

HOOVER RECALLED THAT WHEN THE AUTOPSY WAS CONDUCTED AT BETHESDA NAVAL HOSPITAL NEAR WASHINGTON ON THE EVENING OF NOV. 22, 1963--THE DAY KENNEDY WAS SHOT--"TWO FBI AGENTS WERE PRESENT."

A39WX

"THEY REPORTED THAT DR. JAMES J. HUMES, CHIEF AUTOPSY SURGEON, LOCATED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A BULLET HOLE IN THE BACK BELOW THE SHOULDER AND PROBED IT TO THE END OF THE OPENING WITH A FINGER. THE EXAMINING PHYSICIANS WERE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY COULD FIND NO BULLET OR POINT OF EXIT."

BUT HOOVER SAID THAT, UNKNOWN TO THE AGENTS, THE PHYSICIANS EVENTUALLY WERE ABLE TO TRACE THE PATH OF THE BULLET THROUGH THE BODY.

ON THE FOLLOWING MORNING--NOV. 23--DR. HUMES CONTACTED DOCTORS WHO EXAMINED THE PRESIDENT AT PARKLAND HOSPITAL IN DALLAS, TEX., THE PREVIOUS DAY AND "CONFIRMED HIS ASSUMPTION THAT A TRACHEOTOMY HAD BEEN PERFORMED USING A BULLET HOLE IN THE FRONT OF THE NECK AS THE POINT OF INCISION."

A TRACHEOTOMY IS AN OPERATION IN WHICH SURGEONS CUT INTO THE WINDPIPE--THE PRINCIPAL TUBE THROUGH WHICH AIR PASSES TO AND FROM THE LUNGS.

HOOVER SAID THE INFORMATION REPORTED BY THE AGENTS PRESENT DURING THE AUTOPSY WAS SUMMARIZED IN AN FBI REPORT DATED DEC. 9, 1963.

MEANWHILE, THE CLOTHING WORN BY THE PRESIDENT WHEN HE WAS SHOT WAS EXAMINED IN THE FBI LABORATORY. HOOVER SAID THIS EXAMINATION "REVEALED A SMALL HOLE IN THE BACK OF HIS COAT AND SHIRT AND A SLIT CHARACTERISTIC OF AN EXIT HOLE FOR A PROJECTILE IN THE FRONT OF THE SHIRT ONE INCH BELOW THE COLLAR BUTTON. A NICK ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE TIE KNOT, POSSIBLY CAUSED BY THE SAME PROJECTILE WHICH PASSED THROUGH THE SHIRT, ALSO WAS NOTED."

A4OWX

HOOVER ADDED "THESE FINDINGS CLEARLY INDICATED THE EXAMINING PHYSICIANS' EARLY OBSERVATION THAT THE BULLET PENETRATED ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE INTO THE PRESIDENT'S BACK PROBABLY WAS IN ERROR."

HOOVER SAID THAT SINCE THIS OBSERVATION HAD BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DEC. 9 FBI REPORT, ANOTHER REFERENCE WAS MADE TO IT IN A REPORT OF JAN. 13, 1964, "IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LABORATORY FINDINGS TO POINTUP THIS PROBABILITY."

THE SECRET SERVICE GAVE TO THE FBI AND THE WARREN COMMISSION EACH ON DEC. 23, 1963, A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL AUTOPSY REPORT WHICH BOTH HAD REQUESTED. HOOVER SAID THAT SINCE THE FBI KNEW THE COMMISSION HAD A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL AUTOPSY, ITS CONTENTS WERE NOT REPEATED IN AN FBI REPORT.

(MORE)

LT317PES

EA58WX (220)

WASHINGTON--1ST ADD NIGHT LEAD HOOVER-ASSASSINATION (A38WX)

X X X AN FBI REPORT.

CONCERNING THE ZAPRUDER FILM OF THE ASSASSINATION, HOOVER SAID THE FBI NEVER HAD THE ORIGINAL IN ITS POSSESSION--IT WAS PURCHASED BY A NATIONAL MAGAZINE. THE FBI OBTAINED A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL UNCUT FILM AND REPRODUCED IT FOR THE COMMISSION.

THE FILM--ALONG WITH THE AUTOPSY PHOTOGRAPHS AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER WARREN COMMISSION EXHIBITS--RECENTLY WAS TURNED OVER TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES. UNDER ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE KENNEDY FAMILY, THE AUTOPSY PHOTOS MAY NOT BE VIEWED BY ANYBODY BUT OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATIVE BODIES FOR THE LIFETIMES OF KENNEDY'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY.

SPECIAL PERMISSION OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY IS REQUIRED BEFORE THE ARCHIEVES MAY RELEASE THE AUTOPSY PICTURES.

DR. JAMES B. RHOADS, DEPUTY ARCHIVIST, SAID SEVERAL REQUESTS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM PERSONS WISHING TO SEE THE AUTOPSY PHOTOS. WHILE HE REFUSED TO DISCLOSE THE NAMES OF THOSE ASKING TO SEE THE PICTURES, RHOADS SAID THEY INCLUDED AUTHORS OF SEVERAL RECENT BOOKS CRITICAL OF THE WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS.

RHODES SAID NONE, HOWEVER, HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION TO SEE THE PHOTOS.

CONCERNING OSWALD, HOOVER SAID THE FBI "CONDUCTED A PROMPT, INTENSIVE, OBJECTIVE AND THROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE ASSASSINATION." THE RESULTS, HE SAID, "WERE ACCURATELY REPORTED TO THE WARREN COMMISSION.

"NOT ONE SHRED OF EVIDENCE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO LINK ANY OTHER PERSON IN A CONSPIRACY WITH OSWALD TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY. ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE AND FACTS POINT TO ONE CONCLUSION--THAT OSWALD ACTED ALONE IN HIS CRIME," HOOVER SAID.

PE425PES NM